

Coffman Condemns Quran Burning as Fundraising Stunt

Warns About Violence Against Troops

(LONE TREE, CO) — Marine Corps combat veteran and House Armed Services Committee Member Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) released the following statement today condemning Pastor Terry Jones of the Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, Florida for planning to burn Qurans as a hollow and transparent scheme to raise money. Coffman also called on Jones to end his stunt and recognize the increased danger his actions will place U.S. troops in throughout the world:

“Out of grave concern for our troops, I am calling on Mr. Jones to end this hollow and transparent scheme to raise money and stand down with his Quran burning plans, because he really doesn’t understand the impact of his actions. The lack of understanding and callousness for the safety of U.S. troops demonstrated by Mr. Jones is sickening.”

“Make no mistake, this is not an act of religious conscience, this is a publicity stunt to raise money and that money will be stained with the blood of U.S. service members. It is also transparent that the Dove World Outreach website set up by Mr. Jones is designed purely to raise money over the internet. Although I am sure the pastor and his 50 member congregation are enjoying their new found fame and the associated financial contributions this exposure brings, our brave men and women in uniform will pay a real and deadly price.”

“Having served in the Iraq War, I know firsthand that Mr. Jones actions will lead to higher casualties and increased threat of attack for U.S. servicemen and women. Mr. Jones will have the blood on his hands of those who may die as a result of his actions.”

“General Petraeus was right to voice his concern that burning Qurans would undoubtedly be used by extremists in Afghanistan — and around the world — to inflame public opinion and incite violence. Mr. Jones actions will make our troops’ mission in Afghanistan much more difficult than it already is and raise the likelihood of more U.S. casualties.”

Coffman served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq in 2005 and 2006. He is also the only Member of Congress to serve in both the first Gulf War and the Iraq War.